

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) Report, NMFS Columbia River Salmon Recovery Assessment Process regarding long-term salmon and steelhead recovery in the Columbia Basin

The SAS makes the following recommendations regarding the Columbia River Salmon Recovery Assessment process.

- 1 The SAS recommends that a robust sample of commercial, tribal and recreational harvesters be interviewed in conjunction with the proposed Columbia River Salmon Recovery Assessment. Many fishermen are involved in recovery efforts, both in-river and coastwide, and will have a variety of perspectives. Since they are the first to experience the successes and failures of recovery efforts, their input should be sought.
- 2 There are already several recovery plans in the Columbia Basin, which form the basis for the current recovery effort, and which were based on stakeholder input and public processes. The SAS does not wish to see the Assessment process deflect from these current recovery efforts. Current recovery efforts were also, to some degree, front-end loaded with harvest cuts, and the SAS is concerned that the Assessment process not become a way to delay or forestall the other parties to recovery from contributing their share.
- 3 The SAS reminds the Assessment process leadership that, while looking towards the overall Basin future, any additional recovery efforts will require more funding than is currently available. Funding sources at this point are being utilized to the fullest extent. New revenues will be required to expand efforts. Further, equitable and effective sharing of resources across the range of the Evolutionarily Significant Units needs to be improved.
- 4 The SAS questions the need for confidentiality in the treatment of the interviews. Salmon are a public resource, being managed by public agencies, in a public process. It seems reasonable to expect interviewees to permit their comments to be made public.